

NEWS RELEASE

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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS ANNOUNCES SUSPENSION OF OFFENDER PROGRAMS EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2009

Kansas Secretary of Corrections Roger Werholtz today announced that the Department has begun the process of suspending a number of facility and community based offender programs in the ongoing effort to reduce the Fiscal Year 2009 budget.

Programs that are being discontinued at the present time include:

- Norton Correctional Facility Sex Offender Treatment Program
- Lansing Correctional Facility - South Unit (Osawatomie) Substance Abuse Therapeutic Community
- Salvation Army Shield of Service House (SOS) in Kansas City
- Topeka Mirror, Inc. Community Residential Beds
- Wichita Mirror, Inc. Community Residential Beds

"Suspending these programs effective April 1, 2009 is projected to save approximately \$640,000 from the current year budget," Secretary Werholtz said. "This is not the first time the Department has been placed in a position of having to significantly cut offender programs," Werholtz continued. "However, it has taken us a number of years to restore those programs to a point where both inmates and offenders in the community are able to access programs and services which we know assist them in living a productive and law-abiding lifestyle."

Staff in the facilities will be attempting to find available placements in programs at other facilities in the event that an inmate, currently participating in the programs at Norton or Osawatomie, does not complete the programs by April 1. Staff in parole and re-entry services are working to find appropriate alternative housing arrangements for those offenders currently living at the Kansas City, Topeka or Wichita facilities."

"We are also very aware that based upon final decisions currently under discussion in the Legislature, it may be necessary to cut even more programs this fiscal year and next," Secretary Werholtz continued. "I am hopeful, but not overly optimistic, that we will not be placed in that situation."

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